

THE RURAL ROUTES

ACCORDING TO POPULATION
OKLAHOMA IS IN THE LEAD

HAS HALF AS MANY AS STATE OF TEXAS

There Are Four Hundred Routes in Operation, and More Applications on File—The Country Roads Are Proving to be Hindrances

GUTHRIE: Oklahoma, according to population, has a larger proportion of rural mail delivery routes in operation than any western state. The state of Texas, with its millions of population, has about 800 routes; Nebraska, Kansas and Iowa have in the neighborhood of 1,000 each, and Missouri has about 800 in operation. In this territory there are 400 routes in operation, and by January 1, 35,00 families will be served by rural routes in Oklahoma. This means that 160,000 persons will receive their mails daily, being delivered by rural carriers employed by the government for that purpose. Over \$300,000 is disbursed annually to rural carriers in this territory, and to this is another of the benefits derived from the rural delivery system.

Four rural agents have been detailed to Oklahoma. The work is nearly up to date, and applications for new routes are being investigated within sixty days after their acceptance in Washington. One of the hindrances to the extension of the service in this territory is the condition of the country route. The farmers fail to realize how necessary it is to have the highways passable every month in the year, but, although this condition prevents the extension of the service, the department hears less objections from Oklahoma than other western states, because Oklahoma applicants for carrier offer to make the trips daily, even when the roads are not in the best condition.

RAILROAD MAN KILLED

Two Officials of Rock Island Meet Death on Motor Car

CHICKASHA: As a result of a horrible accident which occurred about two miles west of here one the Mangum line of the Rock Island, George A. Richards and J. F. Johnson are dead. The former was division engineer and the latter roadmaster. Reliable information concerning the affair is lacking. The two men left Anadarko on a gasoline motor car, the most probable theory being that they were run down by the local freight train. Another theory is that the motor car had already been wrecked and the men killed or disabled before the freight train struck them. The remains, which were terribly mangled, were picked up by the local and brought to this city.

Mr. Richards came here about four months ago from Trenton, Mo. His remains will be taken to Milwaukee. Mr. Johnson has been roadmaster here for five years. Both men were married.

A Strong Flow of Gas

LENAPAH: The Lenapah Gas, Oil and Mining company has brought in a big gas well on the Woodward land, west of this place. The gas sand was struck at a depth of 1,035 feet and blew the 2,500-pound drill entirely out of the well. The well is the strongest ever seen in this section. Experts are using every means possible to control it.

Child Drank Kerosene Oil

GUTHRIE: The young son of Robert M. Carr, private secretary to Governor Ferguson, is critically ill as the result of having drunk coal oil.

MANY INDIANS EMPLOYED

One-Fourth of the Office Force in the Cherokee Land Office Are Red Men

MUSKOGEE: In all its departments in Indian Territory it is the policy of the government to give employment to Indians by blood whenever they are competent and can compete with white employees. This plan has proven successful, and now nearly one-fourth of the clerks in the Cherokee land office are Cherokee Indians. There are also a great many Indians in the employ of the Dawes commission at the general land office here and at the Choctaw and Chickasaw land offices at Atoka and Tishomingo. The appointment to places on the Dawes commission is not nearly so much a political matter as is generally believed. It is true that a great many employees are sent here from the states by politicians, and they are given places. But it is the man on the spot who gives evidence that he can do the work that secures the place, in most instances. The same policy is pursued in the Indian offices. There are a great many Indians by blood employed there. Of course most of them are less than half Indian blood, but they are citizens. This system is also creeping into the department of justice and is especially marked in the appointment of deputy marshals.

SCHOOL APPROPRIATION

Chickasaw Legislature Votes \$250,000 for Educational Purposes

ARDMORE: The Chickasaw legislature, it is learned, has appropriated \$250,000 for school purposes. It is said that there are quite a number of school warrants out, and one of the purposes of this appropriation is to pay these warrants.

The legislature also passed an act putting all schools on an equal basis, of payment, viz: \$12.50 per month for each school.

The committee appointed by the legislature to confer with a like committee of the Choctaw council relative to the affairs of the nation made a lengthy report recommending a plan of settlement, which was adopted by the legislature. Both nations will make an itemized account of the finances and settle accordingly, the Chickasaws to receive one-fourth and the Choctaws three-fourths of the money.

TALIHINA'S DISASTROUS FIRE

Half of the Indian Territory Town Goes Up in Smoke

PARIS, TEX.: Word was brought here by a train crew of a big fire which wiped out the entire west side of the town of Talihina, situated about one hundred miles north of here. They reported that this section of the town contained a number of business houses, two hotels, the Frisco depot and section house and other improvements, all of which, with the exception of the Frisco coal shed and water tank, were totally destroyed.

The rails were so badly warped by the heat that it was impossible to run the train over them, and it was found necessary to lay a section of new track before the train could proceed. The fire is supposed to have originated in a grocery store.

They Want the New State to be Dry

MUSKOGEE: The movement for prohibition in Indian Territory, after it is admitted to statehood, is assuming large proportions. Hundreds of petitions have been secured from every town and hamlet in Indian Territory asking for prohibition. Congress will be flooded with these. The Rev. Mr. Sweet, who is at the head of the prohibitory movement, has prepared communications requesting the people of every state to write to their congressmen and senators, asking them to vote for no statehood bill which does not contain a prohibitory clause.

The Businessizing of Mr. Ingenious Impossibilities

As told by himself to "Glen Rice"

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During the last two years I have made several successful transactions along lines where I previously have erred. To-day I believe that where one gets to growing, the lower one happens to be when one started, the higher one will get when one ends.

When I was a boy I went into a country store to buy some goose-quill toothpicks for a Christmas present. To show you the kind of buyer I was at that time—I paid ten cents for a package of a dozen, bought some other things, and had three cents left. Looking the showcase over to see what I should do with the three cents, I saw a broken bundle and took three more goose-quill toothpicks at a cent apiece. I had heard my father say he liked that kind of a toothpick, and I was out for toothpicks.

Let me tell you about the kind of a man the storekeeper was. He didn't buy the way I did. He knew how to buy to make money. He kept the things that the people wanted. He thought ahead of the people and thought straight. He knew how to buy and to sell for more than he paid.

Much of my time was devoted to studying things that this Mr. Storekeeper never thought of, and my mind evolved such original but impossible plans that I earned for myself the reputation of being "up in the clouds." Recently a general manager introduced me to one of the directors of his company. He said he had been trying for several years to pull down to earth one of the legs of this man!

In reviewing the last quarter of a century, I am pleased to see that soon after making a mistake, I recognized the mistake, and by the time my friends began to criticize me, I had made some headway in planning a preventive of a repetition.

Sometimes I had little victories. About the time I got the toothpicks, I went into a hardware store to get a large pocket-knife. Pointing to the knife I wanted, the old merchant put his hand in the showcase, lifted the knife a few inches from the box, told me it was \$1.25, and put the knife

down without showing it to me. I told him that that was the knife I wanted and I counted out the money! I enjoyed his surprise over my ability to buy that priced knife.

One morning before starting to help work out our road tax, I made a boyish brag to my father that I would use a hoe or nothing. About fifteen minutes later you might have seen me climbing over the back fence to trade my hoe for a shovel. The boss had convinced me in about ten seconds that I needed a shovel. Since then I have seen many smart and strong men momentarily foolish enough to unnecessarily say what they would or wouldn't do, to their final regret.

To-day I like to buy goods as a consumer. Let me have a roll of bills every day with which to roam through the stores, without any obligations to complicate the spending of it, and I would make some decidedly good selections. Not so very long ago the selections would have been about 20 per cent as good.

When about ten years old, I got to fooling with a big man around a force pump that had a hose attached to it. My boy friends and I thought it great fun to wet the big fellow, but soon the battle turned and we found ourselves soaked, and when my father found me, I wasn't complimented over the outcome. Since then I have tried to keep out of kinds of fun which would surely enable the other fellow to have the fun at my expense and laugh last.

A recent experience taught me this lesson. With great enthusiasm I submitted plans in copy to a man who has spent more than a half million dollars a year for several years, in advertising. He made all kinds of critical remarks about the idea, but by careful maneuvering I got the thing in type, improved somewhat by my determination to make it go, and resubmitted it. With very little revision he accepted it. The other man is not always able to see your new idea the way you see it by presentation in its first stage.

One of Poe's Experiences.

Poe, one night during those last weeks he spent in Richmond, related this personal experience, adding that he would carry it with him to the grave.

"I was living in Philadelphia during the epidemic of the cholera there. All day I would pace the streets, seeing the dying and dead, until my heart was faint and sick within me. Late one evening, on coming home after one of these aimless wanderings, broken down, and with a thousand pictures of suffering and death dancing hideously before my eyes, I lay upon the bed. In a moment I was asleep and dreamed that a black bird like a raven came into the room and perched over the door. I asked what it was. The bird replied:

"I am the spirit of the cholera, and you are the cause of me!"

"I woke with a start, but the apparition was so real that it made an impression on me I shall never forget."

—The Lamp.

Chinese at House Servants.

"Chinese house servants are getting scarce and high priced in California," said Mr. R. B. Lester of San Francisco.

"With many of us this is a source of real grief, for your Chinaman is the most perfect of all the servitors of this earth. He won't make one mistake a year; he carries out his orders with unquestioning obedience, and he never 'sasses' his employer. With their growing scarcity there has been a corresponding increase in the wages until now a good Chinese cook thinks nothing of asking \$50 to \$60 per month."—Washington Post.

Artful Alliteration.

A writer has discovered that many of the worst foes of the horticulturist begin with "w," and he instances worms, weevils, wind and other workers of wickedness. This suggests a question as to whether there is any natural grouping of good or evil things under particular letters. Take "b" for example, and consider how many boons and blessings to man begin with it. The baker, butcher and brewer bring him bread, beef and beer.

For additional foods he has bacon, beans, bloaters, broccoli, broth, bivalves, bananas, berries, biscuits, buns and butter. After a banquet of bonnes-bouches he may bring out his briar and blow his baccy while he bestrides his bicycle. These are but a few of the beneficent things included under that blessed letter "b." Now, as a contrast, take "d," and among the first words we think of are damp, dark, dreary, dismal, dirty, depressed, despairing, dead, drunk, and so on, the very sound of which is enough to drive one into doleful dumps.—Tit Bits.

By Any Name.

"I have a friend," says Representative Sulzer, "who entered the restaurant near a railway station not far from Buffalo and called for a cup of coffee and a Hamburg steak."

"The waiter left and returned in a moment with the coffee but no steak."

"Where's the Hamburg steak?" asked my friend.

"I'm very sorry, sir," was the answer, "we're out of Hamburg steak just now, but we can give you ham most every other way."